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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fifth session
1-26 June 2015
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Joseph Marie **Fouda Ndi** (Cameroon)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

1. At its 8th meeting, on 4 June 2015, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (A/68/74 and Corr.1).

2. It was recalled that at its fifty-second session the Committee had recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present the above-mentioned report, based on changes approved by the Assembly in its various resolutions on programme planning (see A/67/16, para. 71). That recommendation had been endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 67/236.

3. It was also recalled that at its fifty-third session the Committee had decided to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-fifth session.

4. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

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Discussion

5. One delegation indicated that high priority was placed on the process, and delegations welcomed the proposed revisions to update the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

6. Some delegations welcomed the proposed amendments. Other delegations expressed concern at the inclusion of amendments that had no specific mandate and at the proposed revisions without a direct link to General Assembly resolutions going beyond the mandate of the Assembly and stressed that any attempt to change any aspect of the legislative framework guiding the Organization was not acceptable. One delegation sought clarification as to why the latter changes were proposed by the Secretary-General.

7. Delegations asked to be provided with a general overview of all changes, including historic information on earlier revisions and explanations for the introduction of new concepts (for instance, the replacement of the medium-term plan with the strategic framework), so as to gain a better understanding of the rationale for the proposed amendments. Delegations also requested that they be provided with the specific reason for each proposed change, including whether the proposal was based on a decision by the General Assembly or had other underlying justifications. Clarification was also sought on the reasons for the proposed amendments, including to regulation 4.12 and rules 104.2 and 105.6, in particular on the latitude that programme managers had to undertake corrective measures if it became evident that the course of action was not achieving the envisioned results.

8. One delegation expressed the view that the Regulations and Rules should promote robust, well-defined indicators of achievement that adequately measured the extent to which actual results had been achieved. It was also expressed that performance measurement practices should be relevant and cost-effective. It was emphasized that programme performance reports should include not only explanations for situations in which expected accomplishments had not been achieved but also strategies and actions to improve performance. Furthermore, the importance of ensuring that the Regulations and Rules hold the Committee responsible for identifying and removing outputs in the programme budget that are duplicative, obsolete, ineffective or of marginal value was emphasized.

9. The question of whether the Secretary-General had given any consideration to the possibility of streamlining the text and whether it was feasible to shorten the Regulations and Rules was raised.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee reiterated the need to periodically update the current set of Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation in order to develop outcome-oriented strategic frameworks, strengthen management and accountability systems and identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization's administrative processes.**

11. **In that regard, the Committee reaffirmed its role of verifying that the programmes of activities of the Organization are implemented in line with the**

legislative mandates and that the full implementation of regulations and rules should be ensured.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General, subject to the following modifications:

Regulation 2.1

Retain the current chapeau of regulation 2.1.

Regulation 3.2

Retain current paragraphs 5 and 6.

After paragraph 5, insert a new paragraph, reading:

"The programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles shall be identical to the biennial programme plan."

and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

After the new paragraph 6, insert a new paragraph, reading:

"The Secretary-General shall include in the introduction of budget fascicles information on the new and/or revised mandates approved by the General Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgetary process, shall review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates referred to above, as well as any differences that arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget."

and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

Rule 104.2

Insert a new subparagraph (b), reading: "(b) The Secretary General shall prepare part two: biennial programme plan, to cover two years" and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

Rule 104.5 (d) (i)

Delete the phrase "including those identified through evaluation".

Regulation 4.13

Replace the proposed revision with the following: "The Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, shall review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved by the General Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget. All proposed revisions by the Secretary-General shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental

organs and international conferences since the adoption of the biennial programme plan."

Rule 104.9

Retain current subparagraph (b) and adjust the numbering accordingly.

Regulation 4.16

Retain the current regulation and replace the phrase "medium-term plan" with "strategic framework".

Regulation 5.1

Replace the first two sentences with the following: "The budget outline shall be submitted and considered for approval by the General Assembly after consideration and adoption of the strategic framework. After their approval by the Assembly, the strategic framework and the budget outline shall together form the basis for preparing the proposed programme budget."

Regulation 5.8

Replace regulation 5.8 with the following: "The Committee for Programme and Coordination shall review the proposed programme budget to ensure that the narratives of the programme budget fascicles are identical to the approved biennial programme plan and report on its deliberations. The report of the Committee shall be communicated to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for their consideration."

Regulation 6.1

Accept the proposed revisions with the deletion of the word "relevant".

Rule 106.1 (a) (ii)

Accept the proposed revisions, except the addition of the phrase "to the extent possible by subprogramme".

13. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the proposed revisions to article VI, Evaluation, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation to its fifty-seventh session and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to article VI and the annex to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, taking into account relevant resolutions of the Assembly.**